

# Linn's Stamp NEWS

World's Largest Weekly Stamp News and Marketplace

## Rates for Express Mail, Priority Mail to change

Most Express Mail and Priority Mail rates will increase Jan. 4, but the rate for our popular service will go down.

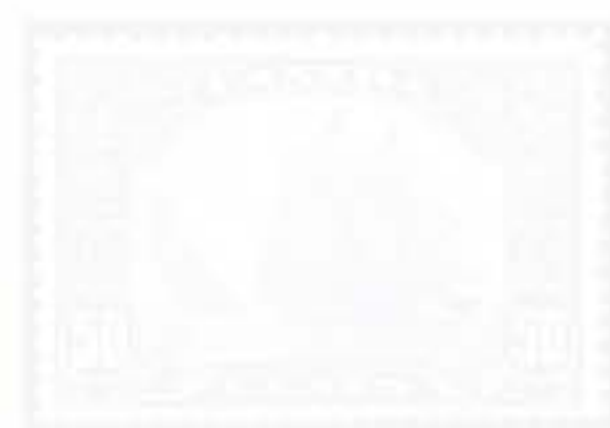
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## New stamps mark natural disasters

Ten new stamps in nine funds for typhoon disaster relief. Plus: New issues commemorate winners.

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## Canada's 50c Bluenose is a collector favorite

Eighty years after it was first issued, the beautifully engraved 50c Bluenose stamp retains its popularity.

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## Royal Mail creates two definitive stamps for 'recorded signed for' delivery service

By Denise McCarty

Royal Mail has created two definitive (regularly-issued) stamps for a service called by its trademarked name, "recorded signed for."

Two self-adhesive, nondenominated first-class definitives for the service were scheduled to be issued Nov. 17, according to an Oct. 30 Royal Mail press release.

Both stamps show the image of Queen Elizabeth II (based on a bas-relief by Arnold Machin).

Royal Mail reports that this is the first time that Machin definitive stamps have been produced for an actual value postal service.

The name of the service is inscribed in capital letters on the left side of each stamp, reading vertically downward.

One stamp is for use on standard-size domestic letters; the other is for large letters (between 240 millimeters and 353mm in length, 165mm and 250mm wide, and 5mm to 25mm thick, and weighing up to 100 grams). The rates are £1.14 and £1.36, respectively.

The press release states that the "Recorded signed for" service provides proof of posting, a signa-



Royal Mail of Great Britain announced plans to issue two gravure-printed self-adhesive Machin definitives Nov. 17 for a new value-added service identified as "recorded signed for" (up on delivery, online confirmation of delivery and up to £39 [approximately \$60] compensation for 70g [ounces] plus the cost of first-class postage.)

The firm Stuart Dempsey designed the stamps. De La Rue printed them by gravure in panes of 50. The stamp for standard-sized mail is 24mm by 24mm, and the stamp for large mail is 34mm by 24mm.

For more information, contact Royal Mail, Tailants House, 21 S. Gyle Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 9PL, Scotland.

Royal Mail's agent in the United States is Interpost, Box 428, Hewlett, NY 11557-0428. ■

## PRC chairwoman supports varying forever stamps

By Bill McAllister  
Washington Correspondent

The first United States Postal Service official to endorse the idea of a forever stamp thinks it is time for the Postal Service to consider making all stamps forever stamps.

Postal Regulatory Commission chairwoman Ruth Y. Cold-

way voiced that idea during a Nov. 3 interview with Linn's.

The newly recruited chairwoman said "I've heard that the Postal Service is considering issuing forever stamps that are also commemorative stamps. For simplicity's sake, maybe all stamps — all retail stamps — should be forever stamps."

Postmaster General John E. "Jack" Potter has said that the Postal Service is considering designs other than the Liberty Bell, which has been used on forever stamps since they were first issued in April 2007.

Coldway said that stamp collectors should become engaged in this issue. They should press the Postal Service to continue to do what she called

"a flagship of national identity," issuing commemorative stamps that celebrate the nation's historical events.

Coldway continued, "We can't realistically expect to have lots of beautiful stamps on lots of mail these days, but you can see what it is to be on someone."

As for the commemorative stamp program, Coldway said, "The Postal Service still makes some money off it. They shouldn't walk away from it. They should work with the philatelic community to enhance the product. They're looking for new revenues."

In the interview, Coldway said she was not convinced the technical implications of issuing all letter-rate stamps as forever stamps.

But she suggested such a

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# Scouts will get their U.S. stamp in 2010

The United States Postal Service finally confirmed on Nov. 5 that it will issue a stamp in 2010 to recognize 100 years of Scouting in America.

*Linn's Stamp News* reported in the Aug. 14 issue that a U.S. stamp honoring Scouts



Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts were honored together on this 1998 32¢ United States stamp (Scott 3183j), as part of the Celebrate the Century series. A new stamp for Scouts is planned for 2010.

was a possibility, though Postal Service officials were not ready to make an announcement at that time.

David Failor, USPS executive director of stamp services, told *Linn's* in August that the Postal Service normally does not issue stamps to recognize anniversaries of organizations, but that a stamp in honor of Scouting in general was still a possibility.

The Nov. 5 announcement for the Celebrate Scouting stamp shies away from identifying anniversa-

ries for specific Scouting organizations.

The Boy Scouts of America cite Feb. 8, 1910, as its date of incorporation, and has posted a web site banner celebrating "100 Years of Scouting."

March 12, 1912, is the date Girl Scouts of America was founded.

The Celebrate Scouting design is to be revealed publicly at 10 a.m. on Nov. 12 at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., according to the Postal Service.

We expect to picture the design in next week's issue of *Linn's Stamp News*.

The stamp's illustration by Craig Frazier of Mill Valley, Calif., reportedly depicts the images of two different Scouts.

I think it's a safe guess that we will see a Boy Scout and a Girl Scout on the new stamp, but we'll know for sure next week.

Rules and guidelines are no doubt a necessity when it comes to selecting subjects for U.S. stamps, but I'm glad the Postal Service found a way to give the Scouts this honor.

This won't be the first U.S. stamp to celebrate Scouting by any means. There have been quite a few over the years, including a nice honor for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts together in

1998 on a 32¢ stamp in the Celebrate the Century series (Scott 3183j).

Both Scouting groups will be honored on U.S. coins in their respective centennial years, as well.

In October 2008, President George W. Bush signed into law the Boy Scouts of America Centennial Commemorative Coin Act authorizing the minting of 350,000 silver dollars to celebrate the 2010 anniversary.

On Oct. 29 this year, President Barack Obama signed similar legislation to create a Girl Scouts silver dollar for release in 2012.

## Final 2009 U.S. stamp program

Scott Publishing Co. has assigned Scott catalog numbers for all of the U.S. stamps issued in 2009. The last issue, from October, was identified in our entry on page 2.

As a result, *Linn's* 2009 U.S. Stamp Program on page 30 is using complete in this issue for the last time, with all Scott numbers updated.

Some folks may want to clip and save this information. However, it also will remain available online by following the instructions that appear on the back of the catalog at the bottom of the page.



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